

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY20 Pasco District Priority Pole Replacements on CTUIR and Navy Lands

PP&A No.: 4463

Project Manager: Meadow Nelson, TEPL-TPP-1

Location: Umatilla and Morrow Counties, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on the Boardman-lone and Roundup-La Grande transmission lines in the Pasco district.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Boardman-lone #1	5/4	4N	25E	25	Morrow, OR
	12/1	3N	25E	36	
Roundup-La Grande #1	13/5	1N	34E	1	Umatilla, OR

Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger would be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Work areas would be about 50 feet by 50 feet at each of the structure replacement locations.

Access road maintenance would be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance would take place in the existing road prism.

Structures being replaced are in easements on Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and US Navy (Navy) lands. These structures are located within or adjacent to forest lands, grass lands or similar type land uses.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Shawn L. Barndt
Tri Cities RMHQ

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 15, 2020

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/ enclosures)

T. Cossairt – TFPF-Tri Cities RMHQ

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

Structures being replaced are in easements on CTUIR and Navy Lands. The portion of the Boardman-lone line in the project area is located on navy managed lands are part of the Naval Weapon Systems Training Facility Boardman (NWSTF Boardman). The project area is located outside of the NWSTF Boardman fence line and is located on grasslands adjacent to a paved county roadway. The portion of the Roundup-La Grande line in the project area is located on the Umatilla Reservation and is adjacent to forested land uses. The project area contains no wetlands and there are no waterbodies within 500 feet.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources <u>Explanation:</u> BPA initiated consultation with the CTUIR on July 26, 2019 for the replacement of the Roundup-La Grande structure. The CTUIR requested surveying 13/5 themselves. Received final survey report on May 29, 2020. Based on the field survey results, BPA made a no adverse effect determination. Received concurrence from the THPO on June 11, 2020. On August 27, 2019, the Navy informed BPA that it would need to be the lead agency for the two Boardman-lone structures on its land. The Navy initiated consultation on September 11, 2019, and received concurrence on their no adverse effect determination from Oregon SHPO on May 14, 2020. The CTUIR responded on July 30, 2019 and requested an archaeological monitor be present for the work around 12/1. <u>Notes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area would be secured, and OR SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. • Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. • Limit access road maintenance to the existing road prism. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Geology and Soils <u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (50x50 foot areas); erosion control measures would be used.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats) <u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation within the ground disturbance area would be crushed or removed during installation. If ground disturbance occurs beyond the hole for the pole, the disturbance areas would be revegetated. No special-status species present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats) <u>Explanation:</u> Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by minor noise during pole installation activities. No special-status species or designated habitat present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: No water bodies present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. Maximum depth of ground disturbance would be 10 feet.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: Only temporary impacts during construction. Vegetation within the ground disturbance area would be crushed or removed during installation. If ground disturbance occurs beyond the hole for the pole, the disturbance areas would be revegetated.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood-poles would not be noticeably different than existing poles.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust would be of minor concern due to the timing of construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions. The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious

weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Coordination with the CTUIR and Navy has occurred. No concerns have been expressed.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Shawn L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt, Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: June 15, 2020